(d) Govt. of NCT of Delhi have launched 84 cases in Court and Court has issued non-bailable warrant against accused persons in all these prosecutions. Additionally, C.B.I. has also filed a chargesheet under relevant Sections of Indian Penal Code on 23-11-98 in the designated court against certain accused persons.

A project for strengthening the enforcement machinery in the food sector in States/U.Ts in terms of manpower, equipment and laboratory facilities with World Bank assistance is on the anvil.

जलोदर (ड्राप्सी) द्वारा हुई मौतों के लिए केन्द्र सरकार की जिम्मेदारी

687. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली सरकार ने विगत अगस्त के अंतिम सप्ताह में मिलावटी सरसों का तेल खाने से हुई मौतों के लिए केन्द्र सरकार को जिम्मेदार उठराया है; यदि हां, तो क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस संबंध में अपनी जिम्मेदारी स्वीकार की है;

(ख) क्या खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम में बदलाव करने संबंधी मामला काफी लंबे समय से केन्द्र सरकार के पास लंबित है;

(ग) क्या राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली सरकार द्वारा अनेक स्मरण-पत्र भेजने के बावजूद केन्द्र सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और सरकार उक्त अधिनियम में बदलाव के संबंध में क्या निर्णय लेना चाहेगी?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलित एजिलमलाई): (क) राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली की सरकार ने अगस्त-सितम्बर 1991 के दौरान दिल्ली और देश के अन्य भागों में ड्राप्सी रोग के कारण हुई मौतों के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार को जिम्मेदार नहीं ठहराया है। अत: केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा कोई उत्तरदायित्व स्वीकार करने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ख) से (ग) वर्ष 1995 में गठित कार्य दल द्वारा खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम में अनेक संशोधन सुझाए गए हैं, जिन पर राज्य सरकारों के साथ परामर्श करके कार्रवाई/विचार किया जा रहा है। उपभोक्ता संगठनों से भी उपभोक्ता हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए खाद्य अपमिश्रण की समस्या से निपटने के लिए प्रक्रियाओं को सरल करने के सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं। राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली की सरकार ने हाल ही में दण्ड में वृद्धि करने की सिफारिश की है। इन सभी सिफारिशों पर प्रभावित वर्गों द्वारा व्यक्त चिन्ताओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए सक्रिय रूप से विचार किया जा रहा है।

Ineffective organisational set up for implementation of prevention of food adulteration Act in States

688. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether organisational set up in the States for implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is by and large weak, inadequate and ineffective;

(b) if so, whether indepth review of performance of the State organisations vested with the responsibility of prevention of food adulteration has been undertaken in the recent past; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strengthen the State Agencies and make them effectie to deal with the all pervading phenomenon of adulteration in food, playing havoc with the public life; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to set up food licensing and monitoring body in each State and the follow up action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) A review of performance of machinery available in the States for enforcement of the provisions of PFA Act 1954 indicates the need to strengthen them in terms of manpower, equipment and other infrastructural facilities.

Some of the remedial measures being taken in this regard include:

(1) Orientation training to chemists, food inspectors and consumer organizations for updating them about the various measures possible to contain adulteration.

(2) Formulation, in consultation with the States, of a capacity building project for the food sector, for augmenting the enforcement machinery and lab. facilities, with World Bank assistance.

(d) Under the PFA Act 1954, States are empowered to frame their own Rules for formulating licencing provisions, in consultation with Central Committee for Food Standards.

Dropsy deaths in the country

689. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the toll of life claimed by the dreaded epidemic dropsy arising from consumption of adulterated edible oil — mustard, this year, and the number of cases of dropsy reported in the country, especially Delhi and Surrounding areas, this year, the comparative figures, if any, for the past three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Central and the State Governments concerned to contain and curb the spread of the disease and to treat the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) A total of 2992 persons were affected by dropsy due to adulteration of mustard oil and other edible fats this year of these, 67 persons died. The State-wise information is in the enclosed Statement-I. (*See* below). There was no dropsy cases reported during the last three years in Delhi and surrounding areas.

(b) Measures both short term and long term taken to contain dropsy and for treatment of victims include (1) immediate ban on the sale of loose mustard oil as well as those brands of edible fats which were found to be adulterated. (2) enhancement in sampling and quality control by optimising the existing regulatory machinery in States. (3) close coordination between Central & State Govts., to ensure proper testing for argemone oil, for proper clinical management of cases to dropsy in states and Central Govt. Hospitals in Delhi and for ensuring availability at fair prices of quality edible oils. (4) stepping up of meausres to educate the public and traders about the adverse effects of adulteration and measures to contain it and facilities available for testing edible oil. (5) constitution of special medical boards in all central Govt. hospitals in Delhi to examine and treat every reported case of dropsy. (6) Notification of an Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1998 under the Essential Commodities Act on 17.9.98 which allows edible oils including edible mustard oil to be sold only in packed from 15.12.98 and which calls for packers to register themselves with a registering authority, provided they have their own analytical facilities or adequate arrangements for testing samples of edible oils, to be satisfaction of Govt. (7) Legal action initiated by registering cases of adulteration under the PFA Act and the relevant sections of the IPC.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	*Dropsy Cases* Commulative No. of Dropsy cases reported since 5.8.98 from Central/State Govt. Hospitals till date	Deaths
1.	Assam	88	
2.	Delhi	2556	66
3.	Gujarat	41	
4.	Haryana	18	
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	08	
6.	Meghalaya	3	
7.	Mizoram	1	
8.	Punjab	02	
9.	Rajasthan	40	
10.	Sikkim	01	
11.	Uttar Pradesh	234	1
		2992	67

Hospital Ill-equipped to handle burns patients

690. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hospitals run by the Central Government or State Government in the Capital are ill-equipped to handle burns patients;

(b) if so, the number of burn patients admitted in various hospitals in the Capital during the last one year and provided adequate treatment;